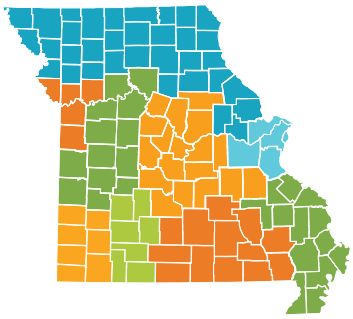


COMMUTING PROFILE
MISSOURI
JULY 2026

Overview

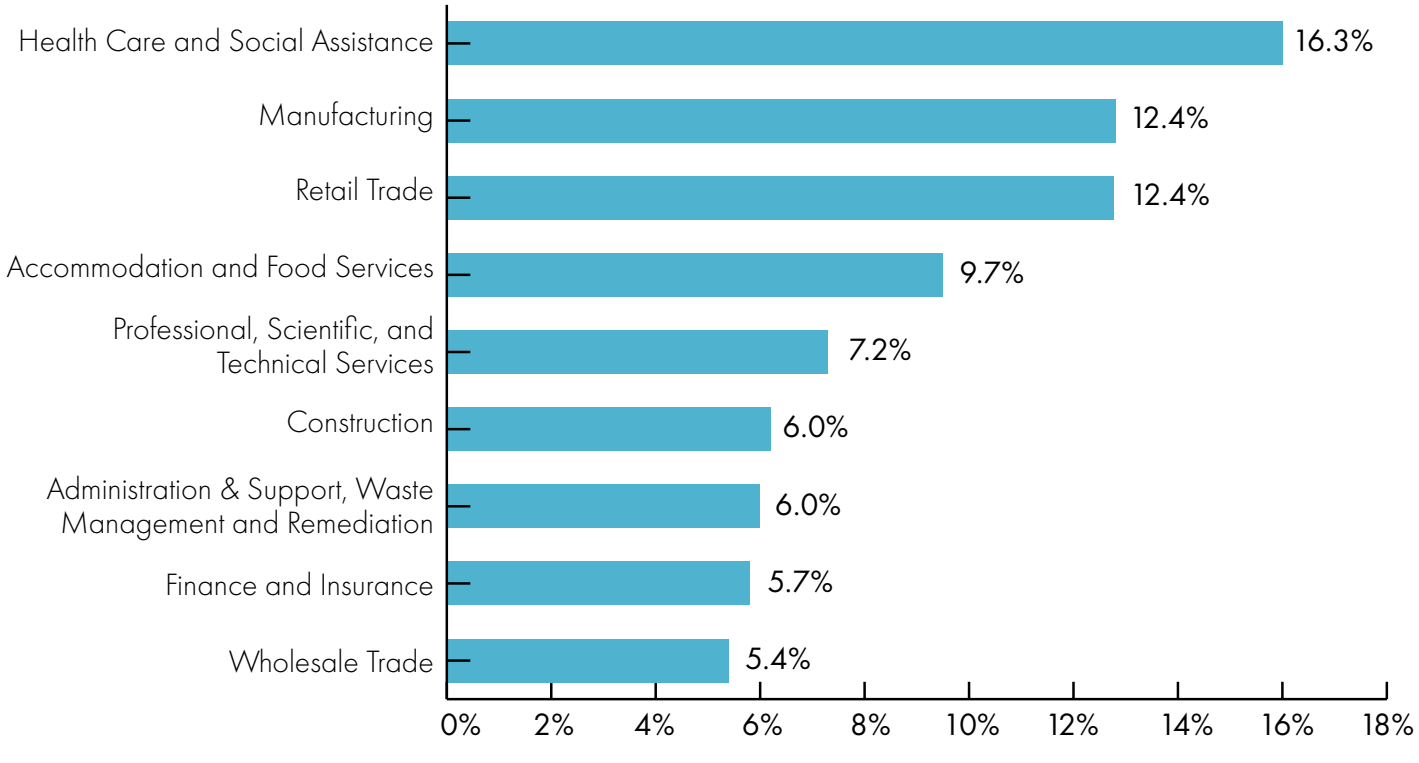
Missouri consists of 115 counties and is home to several large cities, including St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Joplin, and Columbia. In 2023, there were 2,296,652 total private primary jobs** in Missouri. Most workers employed in Missouri (51.1%) were aged 30 to 54. Workers aged 29 or younger were 25.5 percent of the workforce and those 55 or older were 23.4 percent. In 2023, over half (56.1%) of the private primary jobs in Missouri paid more than $3,333 per month. Of the remaining jobs, 15.5 percent paid $1,250 per month or less and 28.4 percent paid between $1,251 and $3,333 per month. In 2023, 51.8 percent of workers were male and 48.2 percent were female.

In 2023, 42.7 percent of employees living in Missouri commuted fewer than 10 miles to work, 15.0 percent of workers traveled more than 50 miles to work, 31.1 percent commuted 10 to 24 miles, and 11.2 percent commuted 25 to 50 miles.

Industry

Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in the region with 375,465 jobs (16.3% of total private primary jobs in the region). *Manufacturing; Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services;* and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* were other major industry sectors, with each having over 7 percent of the state's employment share. St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, Joplin, and St. Joseph were the largest employing cities in the state.

Top Missouri Industries - Private Primary Jobs Percentage



Where the Missouri Labor Force Works and Lives

Of the 2,296,652 workers employed in Missouri, 91.1 percent commuted to work from within Missouri while the remainder (8.9%) commuted into Missouri from homes outside of the state.

Description	Count	Share
Missouri Labor Market Size (Private Primary Jobs)		
Employed in Missouri	2,296,652	100.0%
Living in the Missouri	2,274,315	99.0%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	22,337	-
In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Private Primary Jobs)		
Living in Missouri	2,274,315	100.0%
Living and Employed in Missouri	2,091,704	92.0%
Living in Missouri but Employed Outside	182,611	8.0%
In-Area Employment Efficiency (Private Primary Jobs)		
Employed in Missouri	2,296,652	100.0%
Employed and Living in Missouri	2,091,704	91.1%
Employed in Missouri but Living Outside	204,948	8.9%

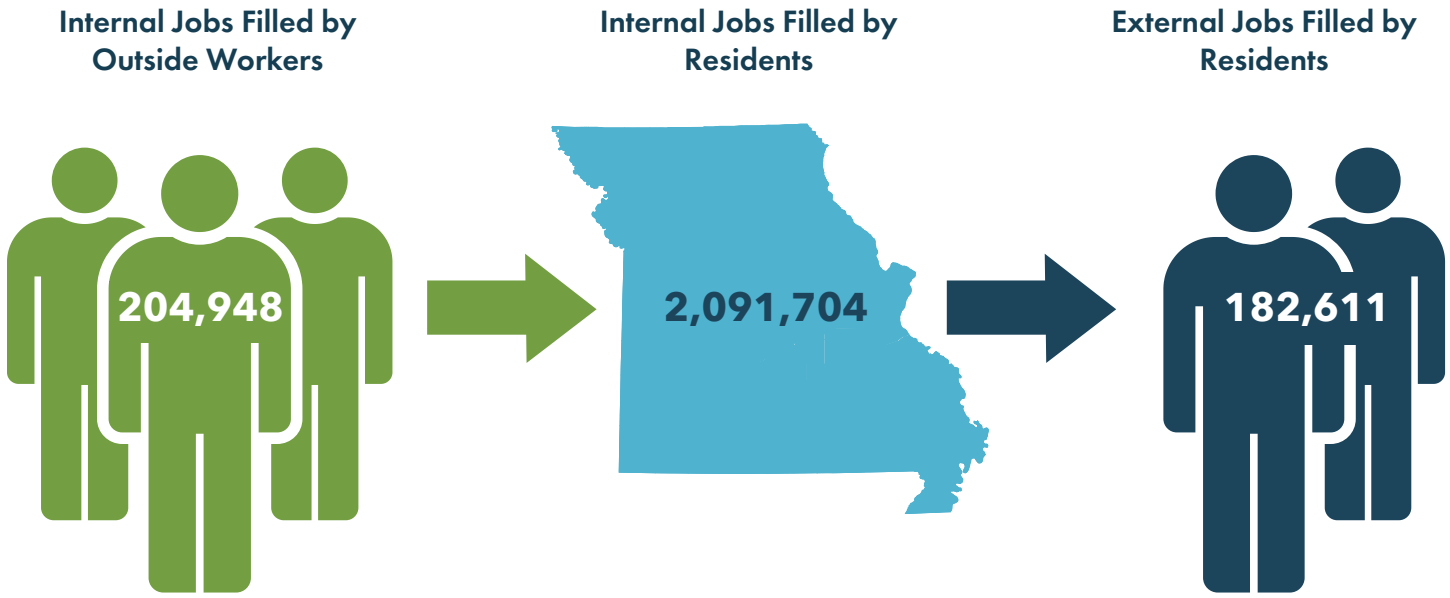
Of the Missouri residents who were in the workforce, 8.0 percent, or 182,611, commuted to jobs out of state.

The top five Missouri counties where workers resided (in descending order) were St. Louis, Jackson, St. Charles, St. Louis City and Greene. St. Louis and Jackson counties combined were home to 26.3 percent of the state's workforce.

Some workers commuted to Missouri from other states, with Kansas commuters making up 3.7 percent of the Missouri workforce, followed by Illinois (3.6%), Arkansas (0.4%), and Oklahoma (0.2%).

Inflow/Outflow

Overall, 2,296,652 employees were employed in the state, with 204,948 workers commuting from outside Missouri. There were 182,481 workers leaving the state for work, resulting in a net inflow of 22,337 workers.



The following table shows the worker composition for the job inflow and outflow groups as well as worker characteristics of the interior job flow. Workers who were residents of the state and were working in Missouri filled 2,091,704 jobs. Of the 2,091,704 individuals who lived and worked in Missouri, 25.7 percent were aged 29 years or younger, 50.9 percent were aged 30 to 54 years, and 23.4 percent were aged 55 years or older. Over half (57.7%) were employed in the *Services* industry.

Missouri Description	2023	
	Count	Share
Outflow Job Characteristics (Private Primary Jobs)		
External Jobs Filled by Residents	182,611	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	47,594	26.1%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	93,885	51.4%
Workers Aged 55 or older	41,132	22.5%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	25,103	13.7%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	43,443	23.8%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	114,065	62.5%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	40,083	21.9%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	46,323	25.4%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	96,205	52.7%
Inflow Job Characteristics (Private Primary Jobs)		
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	204,948	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	48,607	23.7%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	108,907	53.1%
Workers Aged 55 or older	47,434	23.1%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	26,148	12.8%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	44,031	21.5%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	134,769	65.8%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	41,630	20.3%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	39,875	19.5%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	123,443	60.2%
Interior Flow Job Characteristics (Private Primary Jobs)		
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	2,091,704	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	537,233	25.7%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	1,064,196	50.9%
Workers Aged 55 or older	490,275	23.4%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	329,912	15.8%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	609,053	29.1%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	1,152,739	55.1%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	400,670	19.2%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	484,015	23.1%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	1,207,019	57.7%

Commuter Pattern

The top five Missouri counties where workers living in Missouri are employed at their private primary jobs (in descending order) were St. Louis, Jackson, St. Charles, St. Louis City, and Greene. St. Louis County, Jackson County, and St. Louis City employed 41.4 percent of Missouri's resident workers. In 2023, 69,207 workers lived in Missouri and were employed at primary jobs in Johnson County, KS.

Some Missourians commuted to work in other states, with Kansas employing 4.9 percent of Missouri residents, followed by Illinois (1.3%), Arkansas (0.7%), and Iowa (0.2%).

Job Counts by Counties Where Missouri Residents are Employed

Area	2023	
	Count	Share
All Counties	**2,274,315**	**100.0%**
St. Louis County, MO	516,321	22.7%
Jackson County, MO	262,725	11.6%
St. Louis city, MO	161,274	7.1%
Greene County, MO	151,361	6.7%
St. Charles County, MO	131,285	5.8%
Clay County, MO	85,152	3.7%
Johnson County, KS	69,207	3.0%
Boone County, MO	65,456	2.9%
Jasper County, MO	41,556	1.8%
Jefferson County, MO	36,022	1.6%
All Other Locations	753,956	33.2%

Job Counts by States Where Missouri Residents are Employed

Area	2023	
	Count	Share
All States	**2,274,315**	**100.0%**
Missouri	2,091,704	92.0%
Kansas	110,496	4.9%
Illinois	28,535	1.3%
Arkansas	15,198	0.7%
Iowa	5,338	0.2%
Texas	3,026	0.1%
Tennessee	2,684	0.1%
Oklahoma	2,627	0.1%
Nebraska	1,789	0.1%
Indiana	1,413	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2023*), URL: https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/

**2023 is the latest year for which LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (commuting data) is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. To maintain the consistency of data in this report, all relevant data used is also from 2023, although later data for some data points was available.*

LEHD data infrastructure tracks jobs as its primary unit instead of people. As such, the system naturally captures more than one job per person when available in the data. The **dominant (or primary) job for an individual is defined as the job that earned the individual the most money. Constructed this way, ***the number of primary jobs should be equal to the number of workers.***

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.